



**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO**  
**Department of Agriculture Measurement Standards**

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## **GUIDELINES TO REDUCE THE SPREAD OF VINE MEALYBUG**

Vine mealybug (VMB) is a serious pest that can be easily introduced or spread throughout the vineyard. Spread of this pest can be managed with a diligent bio-security program. This program should focus on the main routes of introduction: Personnel, Equipment, and Vehicles.

### **PERSONNEL**

Farm labor contractors move crews from vineyard to vineyard all season long especially at harvest time. Find out where these crews have been working. Make sure any person entering your vineyard has a fresh change of clothes, or wears disposable coveralls and has thoroughly cleaned any soil or debris from shoes with a stiff-bristled brush before entering your vineyard. Make sure their hand tools are cleaned thoroughly. Also do not allow workers to bring their personal vehicles into your vineyard, provide them with farm transportation within the vineyard and let them park outside the vineyard.

### **EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES**

Any time trucks or equipment that you do not have direct control over are scheduled to enter your property, inquire about their point of origin and whether that site has Vine Mealybug. Inspect the equipment and pressure wash with detergent before allowing entrance to your vineyard to eliminate the chance of transporting pests.

Harvesting equipment runs around the clock moving from vineyard to vineyard, much of this equipment could originate from sites infested with VMB. All equipment including gondolas and bins should be pressure washed upon arrival to your vineyard. Vine mealy bug can be transported on any part of the vine. These vine parts (leaves, stems, etc.) must be thoroughly cleaned out of equipment before it enters or leaves the vineyard. It only takes a few minutes to clean off equipment and it can prevent a devastating infestation.

Avoid transporting soil into your farm from other vineyards. Soil and roots can contain phylloxera, vine mealy bug or other pests. All equipment, even pickups and service trucks should be checked for mud adhering to the equipment. Wash your own vehicle when you travel to neighboring vineyards. The chance of transport on tillage equipment is especially important as it can carry both soil and roots.

Vine Mealybug mapping has not yet been completed in much of California and there are infested sites that have not yet been identified. Protect your vineyard from contamination by using these biosecurity measures and maintain a Vine Mealybug trapping program for early detection.

For more information on VMB, contact Karen Lowerison Agricultural Inspector/Biologist at 805-237-3190 [klowerison@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:klowerison@co.slo.ca.us) or Mark Battany Viticulture Specialist at UCCE at 781-5948.

<http://ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/r302301911.html>  
<http://vinemealybug.uckac.edu/VMB.htm>

August 6, 2003

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If anyone has any questions concerning the maps, trapping program requirements, or samples, please have them contact me at 237-3190 or via email at [<klowerison@co.slo.ca.us>](mailto:klowerison@co.slo.ca.us). For trapping information, educational information, and advice please contact Mark Battany, Farm Advisor for the University of California Extension, at 781-5940.